(c) whether the turnout of persons from these institutes is very poor;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to review the entire gamut of training being done by CIFNET?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) (a) CIFNET conducts Mate Fishing Vessel Course of 18 months duration to provide trained manpower for fishing vessels including tuna fishing.

(b) During the last three years (2002—05) CIFNET trained 202 personnel under Mate Fishing Vessel Course.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The courses run by CIFNET are reviewed by Government periodically. Thus, CIFNET has started four year degree course in Bachelors of Fisheries and Nautical Science during 2005-06 in addition to the existing core courses and other short term training programmes and refresher courses.

Price control and entry of new drugs

3385. SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the present price control policy is preventing the entry of the new drugs;

(b) whether Government are considering to replace the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO) by an Act;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to that effect; and

(d) whether Government are also considering to make drugs available at reasonable prices, keeping in view the wholesale price index?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The present pricing policy of the Government is being implemented by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 and the guidelines evolved by it from time to time. As per the information available the present price control policy is not preventing the entry of the new drugs.

(b) and (c) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005. Task force has suggested in one of its recommendation to prepare a new Act namely; Drugs and Therapeutics (Regulation) Act for price control of drugs and controlling drug prices through DPCOs under Essential Commodities Act 1955 should be discontinued as soon a such Drugs and Therapeutics (Regulation) Act comes in force.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a decision will be taken on this issue.

(d) The successive drug policies of the Government are directed towards the goal of making the drugs available at reasonable prices. The Government in consultation with various stakeholders will announce the New Pharmaceuticals Policy shortly.

Revival of Durgapur Fertilizer Plant

3386. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports on the revival plan of Durgapur Fertilizer Plant with assured gas supply from GAIL;

(b) If so, the salient features of the revival plan;

(c) whether Government are considering the same; and

(d) if so, the expected time schedule to restart the plant?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) to (c) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) has sent